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VIROLLEAUD'S "L'ASTROLOGIE CHALDÉENNE"¹

The present volumes are three of a series of publications on Assyrian astrological tablets, which M. Virolleaud has undertaken. The work is appearing gradually in twelve parts, four being devoted to the cuneiform texts of tablets relating to the omens from the sun, the moon, the planets, and the atmosphere, the remaining parts being the transliteration and translations, the whole being completed with an introduction and a glossary. All these astrological texts are from the great series "When (Anu) Bél," which composes no small part of the great library of Ashurbanipal from Kouyunjik; and we welcome the continuation of M. Virolleaud's labors, as a good edition of this class of texts is much to be desired. Many were published years ago by Henry Rawlinson in the *Inscriptions of Western Asia*, and translated by Professor Sayce in the *Transactions of the Society of Biblical Archaeology*. Since then there has been a certain amount of material published on this subject, not only on tablets of this period (the seventh century B. C.) but also on those tablets of the later Babylonian period, which are more astronomical in their character.

In these three fascicules are texts of many of the omens relating to the moon and the planets, and a transliteration of the Adad (atmosphere) texts in fascicule 4. Many of them have been before the public in other editions, but it is safe to say that the present copies are in many cases more trustworthy than those of previous publications. The Adad transliterations are of considerable interest, for they give the omens for thunder in the various months, for lightning with the thunder, rainbows during a storm, and many similar natural phenomena from which auguries may be predicted. Especially interesting is No. XI (p. 9), which compares the noises of thunder to those which dogs, pigs, etc., make, and draws omens therefrom. We shall look forward with interest to the completion of M. Virolleaud's work, and hope that it is merely the earnest of a succession of labors in the field of Assyrian astrology. It is a subject which contains many problems which can only be elucidated by the examination of a far larger mass of material than is at present available. The neat characters in which M. Virolleaud transcribes his copies will make his contributions to cuneiform science doubly welcome.

R. CAMPBELL THOMPSON

¹ L'ASTROLOGIE CHALDÉENNE. Le Livre intitulé "enuma (Anu) 'lu Bél;" publié, transcrit et traduit par Ch. Virolleaud, maître de conférences à la Faculté des Lettres de Lyon. Texte cunéiforme, "Sin" (fascicule 1): texte cunéiforme, "Ishtar" (fascicule 3): Transcription, "Adad" (fascicule 8). Paris: Librairie Paul Geuthner, 1908-1909.